

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REVIEW, 2021

Docket No. ACR2021

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO
QUESTIONS 1-6 OF CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17**

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the above-listed questions of Chairman's Information Request No. 17, issued on February 15, 2022. Each question is stated verbatim and followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Nabeel R. Cheema.
Chief Counsel, Pricing & Product Support

Eric P. Koetting

475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 277-6333
eric.p.koetting@usps.gov
February 22, 2022

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17**

1. The Library Reference USPS-FY21-23 MODS Prescreened (LR-23 2021 MODS Prescreened) dataset contains the variable labeled "siteid."¹ Similar MODS prescreened files in Library Reference 23 of previous ACRs do not contain the same variable "siteid" as the LR-23 2021 MODS Prescreened dataset.² Rather, the Library Reference 23 MODS prescreened datasets of previous ACRs contain only the variable labeled "siteid2." See *id.*
 - a. Please confirm that the LR-23 2021 MODS Prescreened dataset "siteid" variable values differ from previous ACRs Library Reference 23 MODS prescreened datasets that contain only the variable labeled "siteid2."³
 - b. If question 1.a. is confirmed, please provide a key that would allow to link the LR-23 2021 MODS Prescreened dataset "siteid" variable values to the "siteid2" variable values used in Library Reference 23 MODS prescreened datasets of the previous ACRs. If question 1.a. is not confirmed, please explain the differences between the values in the LR-23 2021 MODS Prescreened dataset and the LR-23 2020 MODS Prescreened dataset.⁴

RESPONSE:

- a. Confirmed.
- b. The requested key linking the "siteid2" variable from the FY2020 MODS Prescreened dataset to the "siteid" variable in the corresponding FY2021 dataset is provided in the file ChIR17.Q1b.sitekey.xlsx, attached to this response. Please note that the siteid2 variable is a calculated identifier that depends on the particular facilities reporting MODS data in a given fiscal year, and thus is not constant over time.

¹ Library Reference USPS-FY21-23, December 29, 2021, folder "Programs," Excel file "mods2021prod_prescreen.xlsx" (LR-23 2021 MODS Prescreened).

² See, e.g., Docket No. ACR2020, Library Reference USPS-FY20-23, December 29, 2020, folder "Programs," Excel file "mods2020prod_prescreen.xlsx" (LR-23 2020 MODS Prescreened); Docket No. ACR2019, Library Reference USPS-FY19-23, December 27, 2019, folder "Programs," Excel file "mods2019prod_prescreen.xlsx" (LR-23 2019 MODS Prescreened).

³ See LR-23 2020 MODS Prescreened dataset and LR-23 2019 MODS Prescreened dataset.

⁴ The LR-23 2021 MODS Prescreened dataset "siteid" values are not consecutive and contain more different values than the LR-23 2020 MODS Prescreened dataset "siteid2." Compare LR-23 2021 MODS Prescreened dataset, with the LR-23 2020 MODS Prescreened dataset.

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17**

The siteid2 calculation was used to encode certain finance numbers that otherwise would have been passed through in an uncoded form to the public datasets. The FY2021 MODS Prescreened dataset eliminates the need for the "siteid2" calculation step by using fixed siteid values assigned to the facilities in question. Thus, values of the siteid variable in future versions of the MODS Prescreened dataset will be comparable to the FY2021 values.

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17**

2. Please refer to the Response to CHIR No. 3, question 5.a., Table 2.⁵ Please provide a workbook showing how the numbers in Table 2 were derived. In your response, please include the SAS code showing the IOCS questions and values used to extract the IOCS activity data.

RESPONSE:

Please see the workbook ChIR17.Q2.xlsx, attached to this response. Please note that the IOCS data processing was not conducted in SAS. The “code” worksheet of ChIR17.Q2.xlsx identifies the IOCS data fields and values used in the referenced response to ChIR No. 3, question 5(a).

⁵ Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-6 of Chairman's Information Request No. 3, January 26, 2022 (Response to CHIR No. 3).

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17**

3. The Postal Service states that the IOCS Non-Cluster data fields for the area identifier (IOCS variable "F1"), the facility finance number (IOCS variable "F2") and the "updated finance number" (IOCS variable "NewFN") were recoded (masked).⁶
- a. Please provide a crosswalk of the actual FY 2021 MODS finance number to the FY 2021 IOCS recoded finance number for that facility.
 - b. Please provide a crosswalk of the actual area identifier of the sampled facility to the FY 2021 IOCS recoded area identifier.
 - c. Please provide a key that describes the actual area for the values in the area identifier variable "F1."
 - d. Please describe the difference between the "F2" and "NewFN" variables. In your response, please explain why the finance number (in the "F2" variable) is "updated" (and may differ from the value in the "NewFN" variable).
 - e. Please provide an Excel file with the IOCS "site code" (IOCS variable "F226") linked to the actual IOCS finance numbers.⁷ If the descriptors for the "F226" variable values differ from those provided in Docket No. RM2020-10, Response to CHIR No. 1, please provide an updated list.⁸

RESPONSE:

- a.-b. The crosswalks are being provided under seal in USPS-FY21-NP42. The area identifier represents the area after the reorganization of Postal districts and areas during FY 2021.
- c. The key below describes the area for the value in each area identifier.

Code	Area
A	Atlantic Logistics
B	Atlantic Retail & Delivery
C	Eastern Processing

⁶ Library Reference USPS-FY21-37, December 29, 2021, PDF file "USPS-FY21-37_IOCS_Preface.pdf," at 20.

⁷ See Docket No RM2020-10, Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-4 of Chairman's Information Request No. 1, June 26, 2020, question 1.b. (Docket No. RM2020-10, Response to CHIR No. 1). The IOCS dataset in Library Reference USPS-FY21-NP21, December 29, 2021, folder "Data," SAS dataset "PRCNPubNC21.sas7bdat," does not contain the variable "F226" (site code).

⁸ Docket No. RM2020-10, Response to CHIR No. 1, question 1.b.

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17**

Code	Area
D	Central Logistics
E	Westpac Retail & Delivery
F	Western Processing
G	Southern Retail & Delivery
H	Westpac Logistics
I	Southern Logistics
J	Central Retail & Delivery
K	HQ Log & Proc - Field

- d. The variable F2 represents the finance number of the employee at the time when the employee was selected for sampling, while the variable NewFN represents the finance number at the time the IOCS reading was conducted. If an employee has transferred or been loaned to another finance number, the IOCS tally is often a “stop” reading assigned zero cost, in order to prevent assigning the cost of the activity to an inappropriate stratum. However, under certain circumstances, such as when the original and the new finance number share the same lead finance number, the reading can be conducted.

In most cases, the costs will be recorded in the same strata as the original finance number. However, if employees assigned to an Administrative Post Office (APO) are working at a Remotely Managed Post Office (RMPO), or vice versa, costs will be assigned to the appropriate CAG stratum. The NewFN and NewCAG variables were introduced shortly after the introduction of the APO – RMPO relationships among finance numbers in order to clarify the correct CAG strata for readings.

- e. The Excel file with the site codes linked to the finance numbers is being provided under seal in USPS-FY21-NP42, and represents the site code after the

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17**

reorganization of districts during FY 2021. The descriptors for the site codes are provided in the Excel file ChIR17.Q3e.Public.Response.xlsx attached to this response electronically.

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17**

4. Please see attachment under seal.

RESPONSE:

Please see the response filed under seal in USPS-FY21-NP42.

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17**

5. Please see attachment under seal.

RESPONSE:

Please see the response filed under seal in USPS-FY21-NP42.

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17**

6. Please see attachment under seal.

RESPONSE:

Please see the response filed under seal in USPS-FY21-NP42.